

## **MRIP Work Group Chairs Conference Call 12/18/2007**

The call convened at 10:00AM. The following work group chairs were present: Kathy Knowlton, Linda Barker, Ron Salz, Beverly Sauls. Pres Pate and Rob Andrews were present representing the Operations Team (OT).

1. R. Andrews provided a review of the budget situation. J. Boreman has indicated that he expects the budget to be passed within the next couple of weeks. He is anxious to move from the planning stage to the implementation stage. Work groups should proceed under the assumption that the budget will be passed quickly and that the full funding amount will be available for implementation of projects. Project funding mechanisms (NOAA contracts, Gulf FIN grant) should be implemented so that projects can move forward as soon as funds are available.
2. Procurement of consultant support: ST will develop task statements for each of the projects requesting consultant support. Task statements will be provided to the work groups for review prior to initiating to the procurement process. Several members from the NRC review panel will be contacted by ST and asked if they are willing and available to provide consultant support. In addition, these individuals will be asked to recommend additional candidates for consultant support. The list of recommended consultants will be shared with the work groups, and project teams will have an opportunity to recommend specific individuals. Rob Andrews will draft a description of this process that can be distributed to the work groups and posted to the MRRI website.
3. Review of OT comments and requests for each of the project plans: The OT requested that some of the plans be modified and resubmitted. For a complete review of the OT comments, refer to the OT minutes from 11/28/2007. Some of the plans will require additional information to procure contractor or consultant support. WG chairs are requested to submit modified project plans to the OT by the end of the second week in January.

Specific comments about individual projects are as follows:

- Develop marine recreational fisheries minimum data elements and regional/national standards: Rob requested a specific list of tasks associated with contractor support.
- Discard data: The OT asked that this project be expanded to include all fishing modes. The project plan should include a request for consultant support to examine ways to validate reported discard data and/or to develop alternate data collection methodologies.
- Design and analysis methods to account for incomplete angler license frames: This project will likely require documentation of existing surveys that utilize license databases as sampling frames. Rob will document procedures for the Gulf ALDS pilot study and will also draft a request that this information be provided for the Pacific RecFIN surveys. That request will be sent through the DAWG chair.

- Private access fishing: Based upon the project plan, it appears that there may have been some confusion about the definition of private access fishing. The OT requests that the definition reflect fishing access sites that are not currently accessible to field interviewers (private residences, locked marinas, etc.). Potential biases described in the NRC review should be addressed. The project plan should be modified to include consultant support to develop pilot studies that assess potential biases associated with not sampling at private access sites.
- Documentation of for-hire data collection programs: The DMSWG has developed a web-based template for compiling documentation of existing survey programs. The DMSWG chair will share this template with the other WG chairs.
- Identify and consolidate information on existing recreational datasets: Keep Rob apprised of the need for contractor support.
- Expert review of methods used to assess for-hire marine recreational fisheries of the U.S.: Rob requested a detailed description of tasks associated with this review (what is expected of reviewers, final product). RA will provide examples of Statements of Work for previous reviews.
- Night fishing: Modify project plan to include consultant support to develop pilot studies that assess potential biases associated with under-sampling night fishing trips.
- Guide fisheries: Modify project plan to limit the project to an analysis of existing data. Proposed pilot studies should be deferred pending results of initial analysis and results of other projects (e.g. expert review of methods used to assess for-hire marine rec. fisheries).
- Non-tournament HMS landings reporting for private boats in the Caribbean: Modify project plan to include only an assessment of private boat HMS fishing activity and outreach to assess angler's reporting preference. Pilot studies should be deferred pending results of assessment and outreach.
- Tournament fishing: This project was not approved by the OT.

4. Online collaboration tool: Scott Sauri (ST) has developed an online tool for each work group to facilitate communication and the transfer of information among work group members. Rob will set up a conference call after the holidays so Scott can introduce the WG chairs to the tool.

5. Communication: The group had a discussion about sharing information among the MRIP teams and work groups. It was decided that summaries from the conference calls with the WG chairs should be posted to the MRIP website. Rob will ensure that summaries are converted to pdf format and posted after WG chairs have reviewed and approved. In addition, the WG chairs will query work group members about their preference for posting WG conference call summaries to the website. Finally, Forbes Darby (communication and education) should be copied on relevant communications within and among work groups at the discretion of the WG chairs.

6. The next conference call will be scheduled sometime after the second week in January.

Action Items:

1. Rob will draft a document outlining the procedures for soliciting consultant support.
2. Rob will set up a conference call with Scott Sauri to provide an overview of the online collaboration tool.
3. Rob will provide WG chairs with sample SOW's or task statements from previous program/survey reviews.
4. WG chairs will query WG members about preference for posting summaries of WG conference calls to the MRII website.
5. Rob will post summaries of WG chair conference calls to the MRII website.
6. Rob will draft a request for documentation of Pacific RecFIN surveys that utilize angler license databases as sampling frames and submit to the DAWG chair.
7. FHWG chair will submit a detailed list of tasks required for CIE review of for-hire data collection methodologies (to RA).
8. DMSWG chair will submit a detailed list of tasks required for development of requirements document (to RA).
9. Work group chairs will submit modified project plans as necessary (by end of 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January).